Preventing Sewer Back-ups

Maintenance and Helpful Hints

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City of Santa Barbara P.O. Box 1990 Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Preventing Sewer Back-ups

Sewer back-ups are not only unpleasant and inconvenient to deal with, but they can also result in costly damage. Here are a few simple steps to help prevent the problem from occurring on your property.

Routine Maintenance

Regular maintenance of your lateral line will prevent obstructed flow. This is the outside piping that takes water and waste from your house to the city sewer line. Roots from trees, large shrubs, and plants are attracted to water. So, if your lateral line is cracked, roots will gravitate towards the water source, enter the line, and eventually interfere with the flow. Other factors that can affect flow are the age and material of your lateral line.

Backwater Valve

A backwater valve can be installed onto some lateral lines to prevent sewer back-ups. This device is required by law under certain circumstances. Homes, businesses, and other structures with drainage fixtures such as shower pans, tubs, toilets, or sink rims located below the elevation of the next upstream manhole cover, are required to install and maintain an approved backwater valve. Installing a backwater valve requires a permit. Contact a licensed plumber to determine the need for this device or a suitable alternative.

If you already have a backwater valve, call a licensed plumber to verify that it is in good working order.

Helpful Tips

- Do not put bulky paper or trash into the sewers through toilets or sinks. Back-ups in your sewer lateral line can result, because the line can be as small as three inches in diameter.
- ☑ Do not put bulky paper or trash into storm drains; these items clog the drains and can cause or increase flooding.
- ☑ Do not dispose of oil, fat, or grease into the sewer through toilets or sinks. Do not dispose of oil, fat, or grease in storm drains. It is a violation of the Municipal Code to dispose of these materials regardless of the source through a sewer or storm drain. Commercial operations such as restaurants are required to have a grease trap. Industrial waste generators are required to install a pre-treatment facility to process waste prior to disposal.
- ☑ If you are not the property owner and want to protect against potential uninsurable damage to your personal property, share these maintenance and preventive tips with your landlord, manager, or the property owner.

For questions or more information,

contact a licensed plumber, or Water Resources at 564-5413. For permit information, contact Building and Safety at 564-5485.



Summer Break... Make it Great!

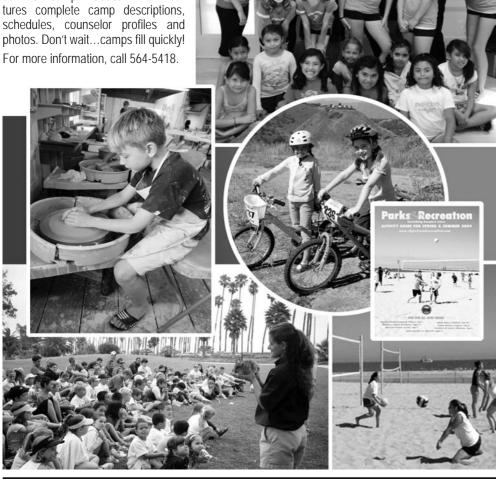
Register NOW for City Parks & Recreation's affordable full and half day summer camps and sports clinics for youth aged 4-17. One and two week sessions run from June 22 through August 28. Twelve new camps have been added to this year's offerings along with all the usual favorites. All summer camps and clinics may be registered for at any time with the exception of the popular Junior Lifeguard Program. Registration for this program is Saturday, April 11 from 8-9:30 a.m. either online using eRecreation or in person at the Cabrillo Pavilion Bathhouse. (Continued...)



Summer Break Continued

Find more online information on our spring and summer recreation programs for youth, teens and adults in the Parks & Recreation Activity Guide, at www.sbparksandrecreation.com.

Once there, link to the special summer camp website which features complete camp descriptions, schedules, counselor profiles and photos. Don't wait...camps fill quickly!





Save Money, Save Water, **And Get a Rebate!**

Here's how you can help save water!

- ✓ Rebates available on high-efficiency toilets, clothes washers, and more.
- √ Receive a free water check-up for your home or business.
- √ Free Rain Sensor available for qualifying customers.
- $\sqrt{}$ Take the 20-Gallon Challenge.

Water Conservation Progre

www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water, or call 564-5460

DIRECTORY OF CITY DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES

Area Code: (805)		City Hall, 735 Anacapa Street, Santa	Barbara, CA 93101	Website: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov	
Airport Parking Ainimal Control	967.7111 967.2745 963.1513	Library Eastside Branch Mayor and Council	962.7653 963.3727 564.5318	Cater Water Treatment Plant Downtown Parking Distribution & Collection	564.5656
City Administrator City Attorney City Clerk City Employment City-TV Channel 18	564.5305 564.5326 564.5309 564.5316 564.5311	Parks and Recreation Adapted Recreation Adult Sports Aquatics Community Services	564.5418 564.5421 564.5422 897.2680 963.7567	Water & Sewer Mains After Hours EI Estero Wastewater Plant Engineering Graffiti Hotline	564.5413 963.4286 568.1010 564.5363 897.2513
Community Development Building & Safety Housing & Redevelopment Planning Finance ABOP Hotline* Business Licenses Purchasing Recycling Trash Complaints Water Billing	564.5502 564.5485 564.5461 564.5470 564.5334 963.1852 564.5349 564.5631 564.5669 564.5343	Creeks and Water Quality Cultural Arts Golf Active Adults & Classes Street Trees Teen Programs Tennis Youth Activities Police Emergency Use	897.2658 897.1982 687.7087 897.2519 564.5434 897.2650 564.5573 564.5495 897.2300 9-1-1	Permit Counter Pot Hole Hotline	564.5388 897.2630 0.252.4613 564.5416 564.5417 564.5394 564.5385 564.5460 564.5387 564.5387
Fire (non-emergency use) * Antifreeze, Batteries, Used Motor Oil and Filt	965.5254	Non-Emergency Use Public Works	897.2300 564.5377	Harbor Patrol Parking	564.5530 564.5523